

~~CLAIMS~~

1. A capsovector for use in controlling insect pests, the capsovector comprising a capsid protein of an insect small RNA virus encapsidating an insecticidal protein toxin, the capsid protein protecting the protein toxin from inactivation in the gut of an insect following ingestion of the capsovector by the insect.

2. A capsovector as claimed in claim 1 in which the insect small RNA virus is HaSV.

3. A capsovector as claimed in claim 1 in which the capsid protein is P71 (SEQ ID No. 50)

4. A capsovector as claimed in claim 1 in which the insecticidal toxin is of plant origin.

5. A capsovector as claimed in claim 1 in which the insecticidal toxin is Ricin A or diphtheria toxin.

6. A capsovector for use in controlling insect pests, the capsovector comprising a capsid protein of an insect small RNA virus encapsidating a nucleic acid molecule which is insecticidal or which encodes an insecticidal protein toxin, the capsid protein protecting the protein toxin from inactivation in the gut of an insect following ingestion of the capsovector by the insect.

7. A capsovector as claimed in claim 6 in which the nucleic acid is RNA.

8. A capsovector as claimed in claim 7 in which the insect small RNA virus is HaSV.

9. A capsovector as claimed in claim 7 in which the capsid protein is P71 (SEQ ID No. 50)

10. A capsovector as claimed in claim 7 in which the insecticidal toxin is of plant origin.

11. A capsovector as claimed in claim 7 in which the insecticidal toxin is Ricin A or diphtheria toxin.

12. A capsovector as claimed in claim 7 in which the RNA is an antisense sequence, a ribozyme or a mimicking structure.

13. A capsovector as claimed in claim 12 in which the mimicking structure is RNA hybridised so as to at least partially form double stranded RNA.

14. A capsovector as claimed in claim 6 in which the capsovector includes a further nucleic acid sequence, the further nucleic acid sequence encoding the capsid protein.

15. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a first sequence encoding at least one capsid protein of an insect small RNA virus and a second sequence which is insecticidal or which encodes an insecticidal protein toxin.

16. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 15 in which the nucleic acid is RNA.

17. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 15 in which the insect small RNA virus is HaSV.

18. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 15 in which the capsid protein is P71 (SEQ ID No. 50)

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sub  
c3

Sub  
C3

19. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 15 in which the insecticidal toxin is of plant origin.

20. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 15 in which the insecticidal toxin is Ricin A.

sub  
C5

21. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 15 in which the second sequence is an antisense sequence, a ribozyme or a mimicking structure.

sub  
C6

22. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 21 in which the mimicking structure is double stranded RNA.

23. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 15 in which the insecticidal toxin is less toxic to plants than insects.

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24. A transgenic plant resistant to insect attack comprising a genome or subgenome capable of expressing the nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 15 such that the transgenic plant produces capsid protein in which is encapsidated the nucleic acid molecule.

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25. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a first sequence encoding at least one capsid protein of an insect small RNA virus, a second sequence which is insecticidal or which encodes an insecticidal protein toxin and a third sequence positioned between the first and second sequence, the third sequence directing expression of the second sequence in an insect pest.

26. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 25 in which the third sequence is an IRES.

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sub  
A1

28. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 25 in which the insect  
5 small RNA virus is HaSV.

10 30. An isolated nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 25 in which the insecticidal toxin is of plant origin.

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32. A transgenic plant resistant to insect attack comprising a genome or subgenome capable of expressing the nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 25 such that the transgenic plant produces capsid protein in which is encapsidated the nucleic acid molecule.

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